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Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance

Safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The increasingly complex global security landscape presents a persistent challenge as the international community continues to respond to humanitarian needs across the globe. These needs, often the dire consequences of instability and conflict, have been growing apace while their root causes remain unresolved.

In fulfilling United Nations mandates on development, human rights, peace and security, and humanitarian support, United Nations personnel are working in challenging and high-risk contexts and have been the targets of diverse threats from armed conflict, crime and terrorism. The present report provides an overview of the global security challenges that are being faced, their impact on the safety and security of humanitarian and United Nations personnel, the Organization's response, and efforts by the Department of Safety and Security to meet the rising demand for system-wide security management to enable United Nations work worldwide. The report includes observations and recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 72/131, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly, at its seventy-third session, a comprehensive and updated report on the safety and security of humanitarian personnel and protection of United Nations personnel and on the implementation of the resolution. It also requested that the Secretary-General include in his report an assessment of the impact of safety and security risks on such personnel, and of the development, implementation and outcomes of policies, strategies and initiatives of the United Nations system in the field of safety and security.

2. The present report covers the 18-month period from January 2017 to June 2018. It provides an overview of the global security environment, the associated security threats, risks and challenges facing United Nations personnel,[1] and the Organization's response to those threats and the strategic challenges faced by the Organization, and concludes with observations and recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly.

II. Security threats against United Nations personnel

A. Global security environment

3. Through its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the international community is engaged in long-term actions aimed at addressing the root causes of insecurity. Strategic long-term indicators on sustainable development are gradually improving. Extreme poverty has declined around the world,[2] global life expectancy has increased and access to essential drinking water and electricity has improved. However, in 2017, more than 128 million people needed humanitarian assistance[3] and the number of forcibly displaced people worldwide surpassed 68 million. Overall, the global security environment remains highly complex and challenging. Heightened global insecurity continues to present a challenge to States' security apparatus and to efforts to define and address security challenges worldwide.

4. Political and social polarization built on economic disparities and populism, competition for natural resources and environmental degradation, fragmented non-State armed actors and the absence of a political solution to evolving conflicts remain the main contributing factors to insecurity in 2017. These are exacerbated by the continuing blurring of lines between criminal cartels, non-State armed groups and extremist organizations.

5. The growing interconnectedness of human networks has contributed to raising the expectations and demands of populations seeking social, economic and political changes. Notwithstanding their benefits, these networks have provided platforms for

[1] For the purposes of the present report, the term "United Nations personnel" refers to all personnel covered by the United Nations security management system, including United Nations system personnel, United Nations Volunteers, individually deployed military and police personnel in peacekeeping or special political missions, consultants, individual contractors, experts on mission and other officials with a direct contractual agreement with an organization of the United Nations system. The term does not refer to military members of national contingents or members of formed police units when deployed with their contingent. The United Nations security management system is responsible for approximately 180,000 personnel according to the database of the United Nations Security Managers Information Network.

[2] World Bank, *Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2016: Taking on Equality* (Washington, D.C., 2016). Available at www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-and-shared-prosperity.

[3] United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Annual Report 2017* (2018). Available at www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/2017%20annual%20report.pdf.

extremists and criminals. Cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and relatively new technologies available to the public, such as unmanned aerial vehicles, present additional security challenges.

6. There has been an overall decline in the number of deaths from terrorist attacks globally.[4] The capacity of Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has been significantly reduced through the loss of a large proportion of its territory in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic. The group has evolved into a global network with a flat hierarchy and less logistical and operational control over its affiliates (A/72/840). However, the capacity of ISIL to incite attacks and inflict harm on civilians in many parts of the world remains. In 2017, sophisticated and well-coordinated attacks employing the use of explosive devices were carried out in various parts of countries such as Afghanistan and Somalia, including their capitals. In Europe, attacks were less frequent and on a smaller scale than in the previous reporting periods, and they relied heavily on the use of unsophisticated methods such as ramming vehicles into pedestrians or attacking victims with knives. While many ISIL members remain in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, sizeable numbers of ISIL-affiliated fighters are suspected to have relocated to Afghanistan, Libya, the Sahel region, the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, Somalia and Yemen, as well as to South-East Asia and West Africa. In parallel, Al-Qaida and its affiliates are showing resilience and remain stronger than ISIL in some areas, for example, in Somalia. Al-Shabaab has retained its capability to carry out massive attacks in Somalia and continues to pose a serious threat to peace and development in the country.

7. More than ever, owing to protracted conflicts and a lack of political solutions, situations in areas of armed conflict have further deteriorated, causing destruction, deaths, injuries and further population displacements. In addition, new conflict areas have emerged in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic, generating additional humanitarian needs to avert the immediate threat of famine and epidemics. With continuing attacks against civilians and humanitarian workers in conflict areas, disregard for international humanitarian law and human rights law remains endemic. Humanitarian personnel face significant threats, including harassment, intimidation, criminality and direct and indirect attacks, especially against front-line workers. For example, in 2017, there were 322 attacks on health care, an increase from 302 in 2016.[5]

8. The international community continues to call upon the United Nations to carry out programmes and operations, not only in complex and dangerous areas of armed conflict, but in all 125 countries in which United Nations personnel are normally deployed to fulfil the Organization's mandates related to development, human rights, and peace and security. In addition, United Nations personnel, together with humanitarian partners, responded to an increasing number of natural disasters, affecting most particularly small countries and vulnerable areas. In September 2017 alone, three major hurricanes (Irma, Jose and Maria) hit Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Saint-Barthélemy, Saint Martin, Sint Maarten and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Approximately 2.6 million people were affected.

[4] Institute for Economics and Peace, *Global Terrorism Index 2017: Measuring and Understanding the Impact of Terrorism* (2017). Available at http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2017/11/Global-Terrorism-Index-2017.pdf.

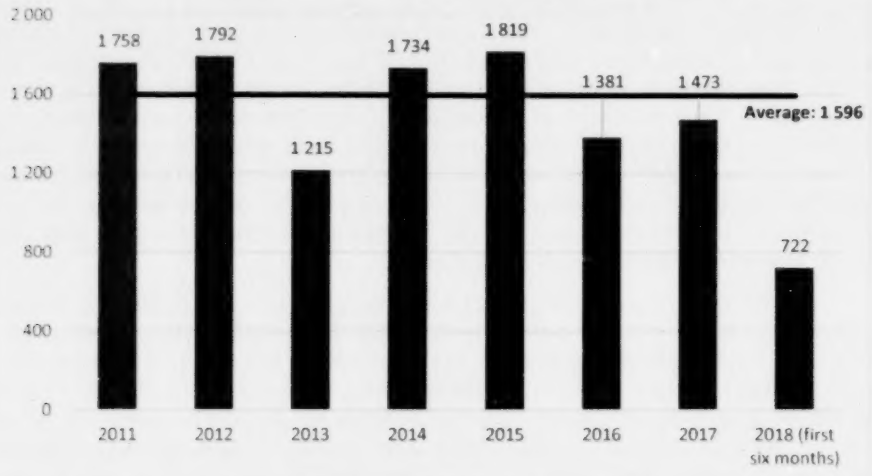
[5] World Health Organization (WHO), "Attacks on health care 2017 dashboard", available from http://www.who.int/hac/techguidance/attacks_on_health_care_q_a/en/.

B. Security incidents affecting the United Nations security management system[6]

1. Types of incidents and their impact on United Nations personnel

9. Overall, incidents related to security and safety affected 1,473 United Nations personnel in 2017, compared with 1,381 in 2016, which represents an increase of about 6 per cent (see figure I). This figure was, however, lower than the average number of personnel affected annually over the period from 2011 to 2017 (1,596).

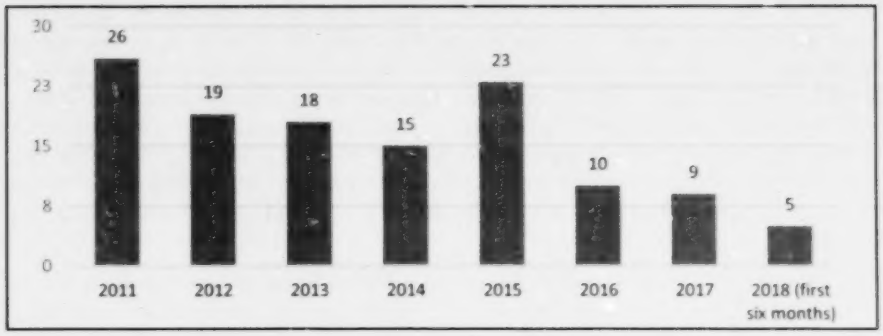
Figure I
United Nations personnel affected by safety and security incidents



10. In 2017, a total of nine United Nations civilian personnel lost their lives as a result of direct acts of violence, compared with 10 in 2016 (see figure II). In the first six months of 2018, five United Nations personnel lost their lives as a result of violence, one more than in the first six months of 2017. These casualties occurred in Afghanistan, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia and South Sudan. Every year since 2015, United Nations personnel have lost their lives in attacks in Somalia. In 2017, 70 United Nations personnel were injured in acts of violence, the same number as recorded in 2016.

[6] The United Nations security management system comprises all United Nations system organizations and other international organizations that have signed a memorandum of understanding with the United Nations for the purposes of security.

Figure II
United Nations personnel fatalities as a result of violence

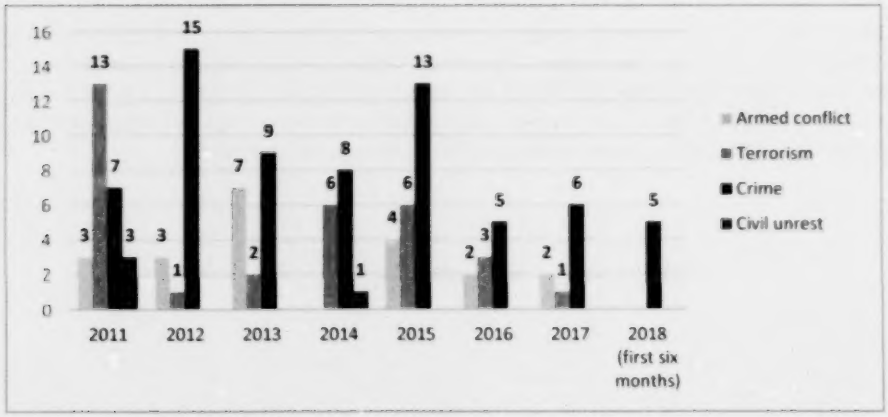


11. In 2017, the number of personnel who lost their lives owing to acts of violence was the lowest it has been since 2011 (see figure II), despite the increased presence of the United Nations in complex security environments.

12. The number of direct attacks against United Nations premises decreased substantially in 2017. There were 23 attacks against United Nations premises in 2017, compared with 56 attacks in 2016. In addition, the number of attacks against United Nations official vehicles decreased, from 146 attacks in 2016 to 51 attacks in 2017 (see annex II). Moreover, 32 United Nations official vehicles were destroyed or lost as a result of these attacks. Most of those attacks occurred in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Mali, the Sudan (Darfur), South Sudan and Yemen. In this reporting period, the data on direct attacks against United Nations premises and vehicles were collected using a different method that applied a more stringent definition of armed attacks and did not include relatively minor events. This explains the substantial decrease in the numbers reported.

13. Of the nine fatalities as a result of violence in 2017, six personnel lost their lives as a result of criminal acts, two lost their lives as a result of armed conflict and one was killed in an extremist attack (see figure III and annex III). Notably, the one fatality caused by a terrorist attack, which took place in Mogadishu on 17 October 2017, was the result of the deadliest bombing in the recent history of Somalia, in which more than 500 people were killed and more than 300 were injured.

Figure III
United Nations personnel fatalities by category of threat

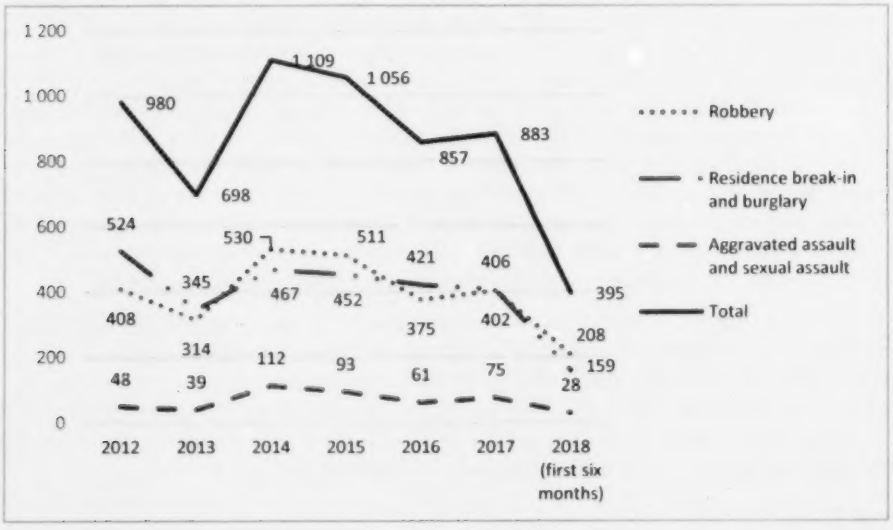


Crime

14. Although crime remains the main cause of personnel fatalities resulting from acts of violence, the number of United Nations personnel affected by crime has steadily decreased since 2014 (see figure IV). From 2013 to 2017, an average of 55 per cent of United Nations personnel fatalities was attributable to violent crimes. From January to June 2018, 395 personnel reported being affected directly by crime, which suggests that the figure for the year as a whole will be similar to that for 2017. During 2017, locally recruited personnel were affected to a greater extent by crime than internationally recruited personnel. Of the 883 United Nations personnel affected by crime, 536 (around 61 per cent) were locally recruited and 347 were internationally recruited.

15. Of the 1,473 United Nations personnel affected by security incidents in 2017, 883 (about 60 per cent) were victims of criminal acts, which included robberies, residence break-ins, burglaries and aggravated and sexual assault (see figure IV and annex III). This number was similar to the figure for 2016.

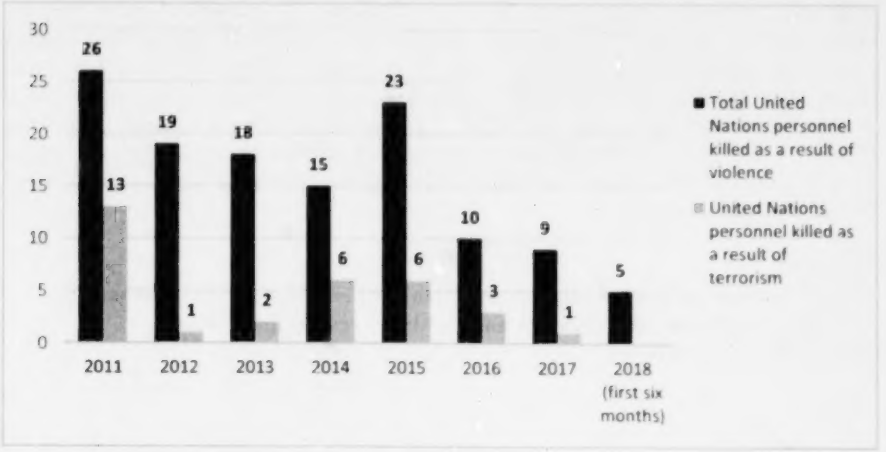
Figure IV
United Nations personnel affected by crime, by category



Terrorism

16. There was one casualty resulting from an act of terrorism in 2017, following a consistent decrease in the number of personnel killed in such circumstances over the last three years (see figure V). While one casualty remains a heavy loss for relatives and for the Organization, the overall decrease is to be welcomed as United Nations personnel continue to operate in areas affected by extremist threats.

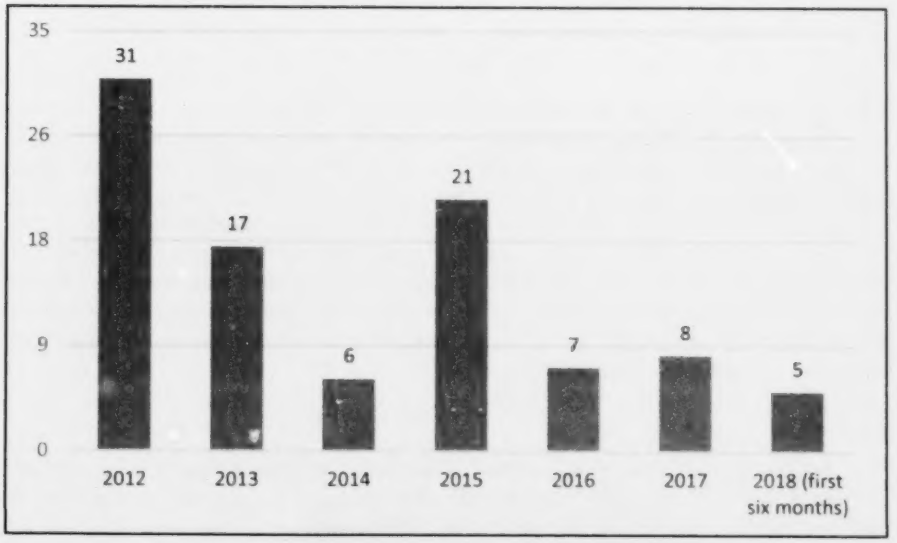
Figure V
United Nations personnel fatalities as a result of terrorism



Abduction of United Nations personnel

17. In 2017, eight United Nations personnel were victims of abductions that developed into hostage situations (see figure VI), which is comparable to 2016, when seven personnel were abducted. All eight United Nations personnel abducted in 2017 were locally recruited male personnel. They were abducted by non-State actors in Afghanistan, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, South Sudan and the Sudan. In the first six months of 2018, three personnel were abducted in Afghanistan and two in South Sudan. Four abducted personnel were safely released, but one was killed by the captors in Afghanistan.

Figure VI
Abductions of United Nations personnel

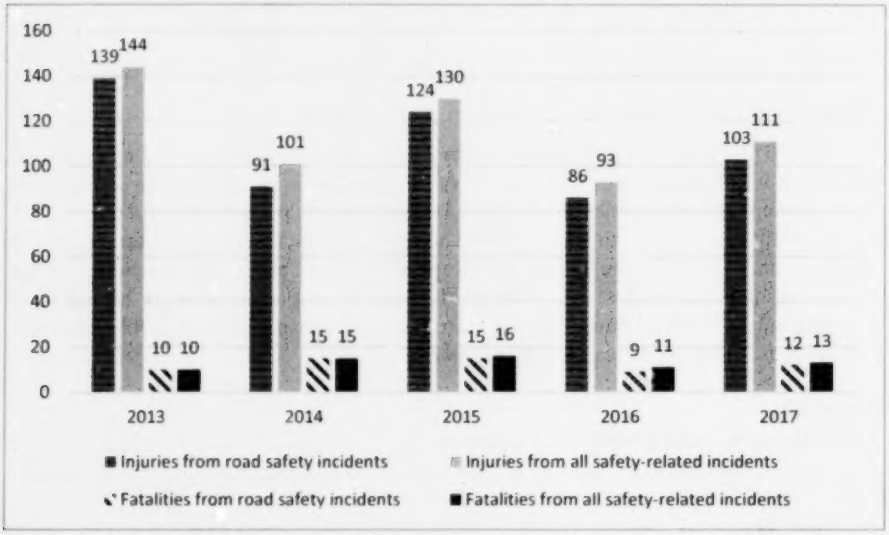


Safety-related incidents and road traffic incidents

18. In 2017, 13 United Nations personnel lost their lives a result of safety-related incidents, compared with 11 in 2016. In addition, 111 personnel were injured, compared with 93 in 2016 (see annex I). Similar to previous years, most injuries caused in safety-related incidents were from road crashes (see annex III and figure VII). In 2017, more United Nations personnel were killed and injured as a result of road traffic accidents (12 and 103, respectively) than as a result of violence (9 and 70, respectively). In addition, 47 persons not affiliated with the United Nations were killed and 260 others were injured as a result of traffic accidents involving United Nations vehicles.

Figure VII

United Nations personnel injuries and fatalities resulting from road safety incidents compared with injuries and fatalities resulting from all safety-related incidents



19. In January 2017, the United Nations adopted an internal system-wide road safety strategy, which is aimed at reducing the number of road-related deaths and injuries by 50 per cent by 2020, in line with the objectives of the Decade of Action for Road Safety. The internal road safety strategy was welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 72/271 on improving global road safety, adopted in April 2018. However, to reach its goal, the United Nations system must start the effective implementation of the new road safety strategy and, together with Members States and United Nations system organizations, provide the support required through the Department of Safety and Security trust fund to establish a more coordinated and collective approach on road safety.

Intimidation and harassment

20. Following the peak in the number of incidents of intimidation and harassment of United Nations personnel in 2015, with 405 incidents, the number of this type of incident had been decreasing in recent years. This reporting period, however, saw an increase in this type of incident, from 231 in 2016 to 316 reported cases in 2017.

Arrest and detention of United Nations personnel

21. In 2017, 63 United Nations personnel were arrested or detained by national authorities of Member States, compared with 102 in 2016 (see annex I). This represents a significant decrease of about 38 per cent. In the first six months of 2018, 42 personnel were arrested, which is down slightly from 53 in the first half of 2017. Currently, 29 United Nations personnel remain in detention. Most of the arrests were related to violations of national laws. The decrease in the number of personnel arrested and detained is likely due to the strengthened efforts of the United Nations, in collaboration with Member States, to promote the road safety awareness of personnel and to ensure respect for national laws.

Gender-related security incidents

22. Female personnel represent approximately 40 per cent of all United Nations personnel in the field. In 2017, female United Nations personnel accounted for 38 per cent of the security incidents (see annex III). There was a marked rise in the number of sexual assaults of United Nations personnel in 2017 (28 cases), compared with the previous four years when an average of 10 cases per year were reported. In the first six months of 2018, three cases were reported. The majority of personnel affected by sexual assault in 2017 were women (57 per cent), though a significant number of men were assaulted.

23. The United Nations security management system and the broader humanitarian and development community continue efforts to improve the conditions and the system for reporting sexual assault incidents. These efforts include training and awareness-raising, as well as the development of an internal policy framework to address sexual harassment and violence in the workplace.

2. Security of locally recruited United Nations personnel

24. In 2017, locally recruited personnel comprised 65 per cent of the United Nations personnel affected by safety and security incidents. Their larger presence in the field, as compared with internationally recruited personnel, has traditionally explained the larger number of incidents affecting them. In 2017, locally recruited personnel faced a higher ratio of deadly attacks than did internationally recruited personnel: 67 per cent of United Nations personnel killed as a result of violent acts were locally recruited. This, however, is a decrease from the previous year, when 90 per cent of those who lost their lives as a result of violence were locally recruited. Locally recruited personnel were also more affected than their internationally recruited colleagues by arrest and detention, abduction, intimidation, harassment and assault. International personnel are, however, affected to a greater extent than locally recruited personnel by burglary, residence break-in and robbery.

25. The United Nations is taking steps to adopt a system-wide approach to improve the security of locally recruited personnel. In June 2018, the Inter-Agency Security Management Network approved a system-wide policy on the security of locally recruited personnel.

3. Impact of the global security environment on United Nations programmes

26. In an increasingly complex security environment, effective security management has enabled the delivery of United Nations programmes and activities in environments with a high threat level, such as in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. In 2017, the Department of Safety and Security enabled more than 2,500 humanitarian missions in Iraq, Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen.

27. During the reporting period, the Department provided security management support for 1,260 humanitarian missions, including through participation, jointly with other United Nations entities, in 181 humanitarian missions to enable the delivery of much-needed assistance to the affected population of Yemen. In particular, the Department conducted critical security assessment missions in various locations in the country in close coordination with all parties concerned, which facilitated the conduct of humanitarian operations across the conflict line from Ibb to Ta'izz. In the Syrian Arab Republic, security support enabled the United Nations to carry out 657 critical inter-agency humanitarian missions across the country. In Libya, the number of field missions undertaken in areas with a very high threat level doubled between 2016 and 2017, while the Organization was increasing the number of assessments it conducted of the security situation. Following a review of the security risk and the implementation of required security risk management measures, the evacuation status was lifted for Libya in February 2018.

C. Security incidents affecting humanitarian personnel of non-governmental organizations and other personnel

28. The complex security environment described above affects similarly other actors working with United Nations personnel. Humanitarian personnel of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the area personnel of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and peacekeepers have seen an increase in security incidents and fatalities.

1. Impact of security threats on humanitarian personnel of non-governmental organizations

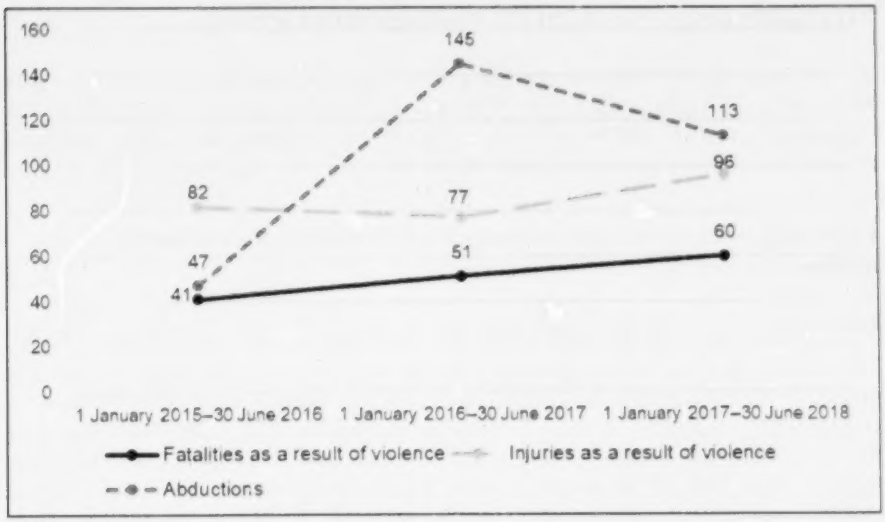
29. From January 2017 to June 2018, 60 NGO personnel working in close cooperation with the United Nations lost their lives as a result of acts of violence and 113 were abducted, according to reports received by the Department of Safety and Security (see figure VIII and annex IV). The number of casualties increased from 51 fatalities in the previous reporting period.

30. According to the reports received, 96 NGO personnel were injured as a result of acts of violence in the reporting period, up from 77 in the previous period. The number of reported attacks on NGO vehicles decreased to 157, from 251 in the previous reporting period.

31. As in previous years, NGOs shared reports on security incidents with the Department on a voluntary basis. The data are likely to be incomplete and cannot be verified or compared with other existing databases[7] that use different terminology and methodology. Significant time and investment and the full support of the NGO community would be needed to increase collaboration and collective work on security incidents affecting humanitarian workers.

[7] Such as the Humanitarian Outcomes, Aid Worker Security database, available from https://aidworkersecurity.org/.

Figure VIII
Security incidents affecting personnel of non-governmental organizations, as reported to the Department of Safety and Security



2. Security incidents affecting the area personnel of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

32. Employing more than 30,000 area personnel in five fields of operation, UNRWA delivers a range of humanitarian assistance to some 5 million Palestine refugees.[8] In 2017, there was a significant increase in the number of UNRWA area personnel affected by security incidents (239, as compared with 205 in 2016), with most of the incidents arising from interactions with dissatisfied beneficiaries (such as intimidation and aggravated assault incidents, see annex V). Twenty-one staff were arrested and detained in 2017. There were no fatalities in 2017 or in the first half of 2018, as compared with four reported fatalities in 2016. UNRWA launched extensive security training efforts towards the end of 2016 and in 2017.

3. Comparison with peacekeepers

33. Fatalities among uniformed peacekeepers[9] as a result of violent acts increased dramatically from 34 in 2016 to 61 in 2017, which is the highest number on record since 1994.

34. Across all 14 peacekeeping operations, the main security threats for uniformed peacekeepers remain armed attacks against moving or stationary positions. They are exposed to rockets, mortars, artillery fire, vehicle- and/or person-borne improvised explosive devices and landmines. The main security threats in the peacekeeping environment continued to be individual or isolated armed groups, extremists, organized criminal gangs and political exploitation. Of concern is the indication that attacks against uniformed peacekeepers are increasing in complexity. In December

[8] The UNRWA data are based on security incidents reported to and recorded in the UNRWA security information management system. UNRWA area personnel are not covered by the United Nations security management system. The overall statistics contained in the present report therefore do not cover the security incidents that affected UNRWA area personnel.

[9] For the purposes of the present report, peacekeepers are personnel of contingent troops and formed police units. They are not covered by the United Nations security management system.

2017, 15 peacekeepers lost their lives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in a single incident — the deadliest attack against peacekeepers in nearly 25 years.

III. Strengthening the security management system

35. To meet the challenges of operating in the complex security environment, efforts have continued, through the United Nations security management system, led by the Department of Safety and Security, to enable the United Nations to conduct mandated programmes and activities safely and efficiently.

A. Enhancing security risk-management capacity for security decision makers

1. Enhanced support to designated officials

36. Noting that the designated official is usually the most senior United Nations official in the designated area, the Department has actively engaged with them to strengthen their capacity as security decision makers. In 2017, under the auspices of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, 110 designated officials, together with their senior security advisers and representatives of United Nations system organizations, participated in five regional workshops to enhance their understanding of security policies and address operational concerns and challenges. The Department revised and distributed the handbook for designated officials, which offers practical, comprehensive and updated advice on security management and decision-making. In 2017, a total of 1,007 United Nations personnel with security decision-making authority completed the online Security Management Team course. The Department is developing specific training to support designated officials in the management of security-related crises with a view to training 120 designated officials in 2019.

2. Strengthening security decisions

37. Balancing the need to carry out critical programmes with security is essential in areas with a high threat level. The programme criticality framework is a United Nations system-wide policy to assist in the decision-making on the acceptable security risk. The framework ensures that the delivery of activities involving United Nations personnel can be balanced against acceptable levels of security risks. During the reporting period, the United Nations carried out 31 programme criticality assessments in 25 countries.

38. The United Nations continued to increase the effectiveness and consistent application of the programme criticality framework and to foster its link to security risk management and decisions on acceptable security risk. Efforts included the provision of oversight and operational guidance to United Nations operations in the field, as well as training for United Nations personnel, and the completion of a lessons-learned study on the implementation of the programme criticality framework. In Kenya and Liberia, the programme criticality assessments carried out prior to the national elections held in 2017 facilitated the delivery of critical United Nations activities and assisted the designated officials in taking informed security decisions on acceptable risk in potential crisis areas. In Iraq, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen, the results of programme criticality assessments helped the designated officials to determine the scope of the United Nations presence.

3. Duty of care

39. Following an effort initiated in 2014 in the light of the changing operational environment, the High-level Committee on Management approved, in April 2018, system-wide measures for United Nations personnel, such as predeployment packages for national and international personnel, specific training and support for managers, as well as standards for working and living conditions for personnel deployed to high-risk environments.

B. Reinforcing security risk-management strategies

1. Completing the framework of safety and security policies

40. Strengthening the regulatory framework to guide and support security operations, policy development and decision-making remains the key focus of the United Nations security management system. In June 2018, the Inter-Agency Security Management Network endorsed new policies and guidelines on security planning, the security of locally recruited personnel, and compliance, evaluation and best practices. The policy on compliance provides a common institutional framework for compliance monitoring, security programme evaluation, lessons learned and best practices. This institutional framework is an essential tool for effective security management across the organizations. With the adoption of this new guidance, the strategic security policy framework has been completely overhauled.

41. In addition, the Department conducted three evaluations of the United Nations security programme, identifying security issues and making recommendations to improve security management processes and outcomes. These evaluations focused on key areas of security management, while ensuring the integration of gender considerations. Moreover, the results of the evaluations include lessons learned.

2. Enhancing situational awareness and threat and risk analysis

42. Early warning, situational awareness and capacity to analyse security threats and risks remain a core priority. To enhance further security professionals' expertise on security analysis, in September 2017, the Department commenced a comprehensive training initiative on strategic analysis warning techniques, which focuses on early warning and analysis of violent and unstable environments for senior decision makers. This training continues in 2018. In addition, the Department updated and published guidance on security analysis process and practice for all security professionals to improve the consistency and quality of analysis on specific security threats.

3. Effective use of specific security risk-management measures

43. The United Nations security management system works to strengthen the physical security of United Nations premises, including United Nations Headquarters, offices away from Headquarters, regional commissions and tribunals. During the reporting period, the Department provided operational guidance to 66 different duty stations and on-site assistance to strengthen premise security in 10 locations. This involved the construction of new security features, the refurbishment or upgrading of existing equipment and procedures, and training. At the end of 2018, security professionals will start using a mobile application for physical security assessments to identify site vulnerabilities and suggest appropriate security risk-management measures to address them. In addition, the Department, in collaboration with key partners, is working to improve standards and guidance on security telecommunications across the system.

44. The Department coordinated 369 complex protective operations in environments with a high threat level and 2,209 close protection operations for senior officials. With the support of Member States, six close protection units have been deployed in Afghanistan, Libya and the Sudan (Darfur). In addition, the United Nations security management system invested in the protection of road movements through the acquisition of armoured vehicles. In the past five years, the Department has almost doubled its fleet of armoured vehicles, from 63 to 114 in 2018.

4. Training

45. Security training is one of the most effective measures for the prevention and mitigation of security risks. In various regions of the world, more than 20,000 United Nations personnel working in or about to be deployed to complex security environments completed the face-to-face course Safe and Secure Approaches to Field Environments during the reporting period. Those trained included more than 600 personnel deployed to Yemen. In the same period, more than 60,000 United Nations personnel completed the online learning programmes, Basic Security in the Field and Advanced Security in the Field, which constitute the baseline organizational security culture and awareness programme. The Department has developed a new online course entitled "BSAFE" that will soon replace the above-mentioned courses, with updated information on security procedures and policies.

5. Response to critical incidents

46. Psychosocial support services are invaluable to United Nations personnel affected by critical incidents, and strengthening those services is an integral part of the Organization's duty of care. From January 2017 to June 2018, the Department, in collaboration with United Nations system organizations, provided psychosocial support to personnel affected by 340 major critical incidents, and delivered 6,860 counselling sessions for personnel in more than 40 countries. This effort was undertaken by mobilizing local counselling resources and temporarily deploying six counsellors to the Central African Republic, the Gambia, Mali and Somalia. In 2017, psychosocial services were provided for 14,217 personnel, compared with 12,143 in the previous reporting period. Moreover, the Department provided training for 348 peer helpers and 150 external mental health professionals to build critical incident stress intervention cells.

C. Reform efforts of the Department of Safety and Security

47. In line with the Secretary-General's reform vision, the Department has undertaken internal reforms, encompassing management, governance, human resources, budget and performance with a view to providing the most effective security management to enable the delivery of United Nations mandates and programmes.

48. The first stage of strategic reforms was completed in June 2018 and included the integration of the Secretariat's security resources and responsibilities, a workforce reform anchored in the departmental strategies on human resources, on integrating gender considerations into security management and on security training, as well as the conduct of a workforce planning exercise. In the second stage, the Department is reviewing security funding mechanism and its internal structure to ensure greater effectiveness. These structural reviews are expected to result in increased efficiency and flexibility of existing human and financial resources. Additional reforms would require an ambitious review of the security structures of the United Nations security management system.

49. In addition, in cooperation with the Office of Information and Communications Technology, the Department is seeking ways to enhance security operations with innovative technologies. Efforts are under way to design a mobile application to provide United Nations personnel with access to security travel advisories and information on their security clearance. The electronic travel application, scheduled to be rolled out in early 2019, is aimed at raising the overall situational awareness of all personnel through the delivery of timely and location-specific security advisories and at maintaining an accurate account of personnel during crises.

1. Integration of the security resources of the Secretariat

50. The Department has worked with the Departments of Management, Political Affairs, Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support and the Office of Legal Affairs to integrate the safety and security personnel and assets of the Secretariat under the overall leadership and coordination of the Department. This will enable a single Secretariat department to provide the necessary leadership, management and coordination of all safety and security resources of the Secretariat. This will lead to a more professional, mobile, flexible and global "integrated security workforce" with the requisite knowledge, skills and experience to meet the ever-changing demands for security support and services globally. The General Assembly has welcomed the progress made and has expressed support for integration in its resolutions 70/104, 71/129 and 72/131.

51. The completion of the United Nations Secretariat Safety and Security Integration Project in June 2018 was a significant achievement. All Secretariat safety and security personnel, comprising approximately 7,000 personnel across more than 120 duty stations, now operate under the same policy and administrative framework. As an example, the Department improved standards of recruitment, training and operational deployment of protective services personnel deployed globally. Issuing interdepartmental standard operating procedures on the operational control and management of protective services has enhanced the delivery of protective services across the board. The Department is now engaged in various efforts to ensure the proper functioning of the integrated security workforce, including a review of the financing and effective deployment of that workforce.

2. Human resources, training and gender strategies for security personnel

52. The Department's human resources strategy, adopted in July 2017, outlines the organizational framework for human resources management for the integrated security workforce, and the culture and values that underpin the integrated security workforce in its daily work to promote a performance management culture. It aims to develop and support a professional and mobile workforce with the knowledge, skills and experience to provide effective safety and security services to the United Nations globally.

53. The Department has developed outreach initiatives and appointed a Gender Coordinator to work towards building a more inclusive organizational culture and to identify opportunities to meet the gender parity goal in line with the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. The Department strengthened oversight and accountability measures for the advancement of gender equality and the empowerment of women by including gender-related goals in the performance management of all its personnel. Moreover, the Department established an annual award under its recognition programme to recognize exceptional work in promoting gender equality. Efforts are under way to increase the representation of women among staff in the Professional and higher categories in the Department with a goal of reaching gender parity by 2028.

54. To bolster the effectiveness of its integrated security workforce in line with the human resources strategy, the Department developed a learning and development strategy for the integrated security workforce in April 2018. Fundamentally changing the business model of training for security personnel, the strategy aims to achieve a more participant-driven learning strategy that allows learners to access content on demand, whenever they need it.

D. Building collaboration

1. Enhancing security collaboration between the United Nations and host Governments

55. Effective collaboration and engagement with host Governments remain key components of United Nations security management in view of the primary responsibility of host Governments for providing security and protection to United Nations personnel, premises and assets. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security met with host government authorities to ensure close collaboration through the sharing of situational awareness and threat and risk analysis, the coordination of prevention and risk mitigation measures and the management of security crises. The Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security visited 21 countries and held meetings with relevant security authorities.

56. In ensuring the security of United Nations Headquarters, offices away from Headquarters, regional commissions and tribunals, the Department coordinates closely with host country authorities on the protection of these premises. It coordinated specialized security support for 278 external events and conferences sponsored by United Nations system organizations in 108 countries that brought together more than 124,010 participants.

2. Combating impunity and promoting respect for the human rights, privileges and immunities of United Nations and associated personnel

57. The United Nations continued to make every effort to engage host Governments in protecting United Nations personnel deployed on their territories and ensuring respect for the privileges and immunities of United Nations personnel. The Organization continues to encourage Member States to abide by relevant international instruments. To date, only 94 States (a slight increase from 93 States in 2016) are parties to the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel of 1994 and the Optional Protocol thereto of 2005.

58. Following the development of a mechanism to follow up with host Governments on the status of investigations into deaths of United Nations personnel as a result of violent acts, the Department of Safety and Security, in collaboration with other departments and offices of the Secretariat, adopted the standard operating procedure on the victims of violence registry for fatalities in service in January 2018.

3. Strengthening partnerships with non-governmental organizations

59. The United Nations and NGO networks have established a strong partnership through the implementation of the revised Saving Lives Together framework. The number of NGOs, international organizations and other partners with Saving Lives Together focal points at Headquarters has doubled since 2013 to 150 at present. To foster better understanding and enhance the visibility of the framework and to increase outreach, focal points from the United Nations and NGO networks cooperate closely to address common country-specific issues. The Department expanded the participation of NGO security managers in the United Nations security professionals' certification programme.

60. The improvements in collaboration and information-sharing facilitated the provision of support to NGOs, including assistance in the relocation and medical evacuation of personnel, when feasible. Further initiatives are under way to strengthen collaboration with NGOs, including through training of designated officials.

IV. Strategic challenges

61. Despite the progress made in strengthening the United Nations security management system, enabling United Nations operations in an increasingly complex security environment remains challenging. Although the number of deaths resulting from acts of violence in 2017 was the lowest recorded since 2011, the fast-paced changing security environment and the rising demand for security services and operational support continue to stretch the current resources.

62. Within the existing resources, the Organization has fine-tuned its strategic approaches to respond effectively to the changing global security environment to achieve the most effective and efficient use of the Organization's safety and security resources. The Department has delivered on its strategic priorities: the realignment of its resources; workforce planning; integration of the security workforce; improvement of business process; implementing the gender strategy; and the revitalization of the Trust Fund for Security of Staff Members of the United Nations System (2018–2022).

63. Through its ongoing reform, the Department is continuing to improve its resource management. There is, however, a continuous need to ensure that there are adequate resources that correspond with rising security demands to enable United Nations programme delivery. Although the Department has provided security support to enable an increase in United Nations humanitarian programme implementation through its services to the United Nations security management system, there has not been a commensurate increase in security funding, in contrast with the increases in funding for humanitarian life-saving programmes. Following the integration of the Secretariat security workforce, efforts are under way to reassess security funding arrangements in field missions and in the Department.

64. The rising global needs for specialized security operations, services and resources represent unmet demands not covered by current resourcing. In response, the Department has launched its trust fund with the theme "Protecting your people and investments in the United Nations" to allow greater flexibility through the financing of emerging priorities in safety and security. Since the fund opened to voluntary contributions in January 2018, Member States have indicated their support but have yet to provide additional support through the trust fund.

V. Observations and recommendations

65. **The increasingly complex global security landscape continues to challenge the international community to respond to the dire humanitarian consequences of conflict and instability. To address the underlying political and social challenges that have led to the heightened insecurity, the international community must work together, as there is no alternative to multilateralism. Every day, United Nations personnel risk their lives and well-being to fulfil humanitarian, development, human rights, and peace and security mandates across the globe. United Nations and humanitarian personnel, often deployed in hardship conditions, remain the targets of diverse threats from terrorism, crime and armed conflict while providing relief to those in need and supporting Member States and their populations.**

66. In the past 18 months, 35 United Nations personnel and more than 60 NGO humanitarian personnel lost their lives in the line of duty. I am deeply saddened by these deaths and I express my sincere condolences to the bereaved families. I condemn, in the strongest terms, all forms of crime and violence against United Nations and humanitarian personnel. The Organization remains undeterred in working towards the values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. The best tribute that can be paid to these fallen brave men and women is to continue to work: to go to dangerous places with the aim of making them safer and to stand with and help those who are suffering.

67. I am fully committed to the safety and security of United Nations personnel. The marked increase in the number of incidents of abduction, intimidation and harassment of United Nations personnel is cause for concern. In 2017, eight United Nations personnel, all locally recruited, were victims of abductions, compared with seven in 2016. The incidence of intimidation and harassment has increased, from 231 incidents in 2016 to 316 in 2017. There has also been a rise in the number of reported sexual assault cases, from 17 in 2016 to 28 in 2017. More than 50 per cent of the personnel affected in those cases were women. Moreover, the number of deaths and injuries related to safety-related incidents affecting United Nations personnel increased from 11 in 2016 to 13 in 2017; and road crashes remain the primary cause of death for United Nations personnel.

68. On a positive note, in the past three years, there has been a decline in the overall number of deaths of United Nations personnel resulting from violent acts, while the numbers of operations in high-risk environments have kept growing. This points to the effectiveness of United Nations security management. The Organization, together with United Nations security management system partners, is continuing to make strides in enhancing the security and safety of United Nations personnel through effective security management policy and compliance, analysis, training and operational support. To sustain this positive development, predictable and adequate resources for security are critical. In that regard, I am calling upon Member States and partners to urgently support the Department of Safety and Security trust fund. I am also calling upon Member States and donors to ensure that security costs are an integral part of mandate consideration and planning at the outset as part of a preventive approach for the protection of United Nations personnel.

69. Promoting further an organizational culture that mainstreams the safety and security of United Nations personnel in all aspects of the Organization's work remains one of my top priorities. In line with my management reform vision, the Department of Safety and Security has initiated internal reform measures to ensure that it remains "fit for purpose". The integration of the security resources of the Secretariat under the authority of the Under-Secretary-General for Safety and Security, the establishment of the Department's human resources, gender and training strategies and the continuous realignment of resources constitute significant achievements. The next steps include a review of the security funding mechanism as a priority and, to this end, Member States' continued support remains indispensable.

70. Committed partnership is fundamental for the protection of United Nations and humanitarian personnel. It is the international community's collective responsibility. I call upon Member States to take all necessary measures, including in the deliberations on United Nations mandates, to ensure the protection of United Nations and humanitarian personnel. This is critical for the continuation and success of United Nations operations. I wish to underscore the primary responsibility of host Governments in the protection of United Nations and humanitarian personnel, in accordance with the relevant international legal

instruments. At the same time, the commitment of all parties, including non-State actors, is essential for the protection of United Nations and humanitarian personnel, particularly in conflict situations.

71. **I am deeply concerned with the continuous erosion, in many cases, of respect for the principles and rules of international law, in particular international humanitarian law. Impunity for crimes committed against United Nations personnel and humanitarian personnel remains a serious cause for concern. I urge the host Governments and their relevant national authorities to take timely adequate action to bring to justice those perpetrators who commit crimes against United Nations and humanitarian personnel. The United Nations relies on Member States to undertake credible investigations of all crimes and acts of violence committed against United Nations personnel within their jurisdictions. Moreover, I urge Member States to act against the obstruction of freedom of movement of United Nations personnel and humanitarian personnel.**

72. **I recommend that the General Assembly remain engaged on the issue of the safety and security of United Nations personnel and continue to provide full support to the United Nations security management system.**

Annex I

United Nations personnel affected by safety and security incidents

Category of safety and security incidents	*Number of personnel affected*					
	2013	*2014*	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018 (first six months)*
Fatalities resulting from acts of violence	18	15	23	10	9	5
Fatalities resulting from safety-related incidents	10	15	16	11	13	8
Injuries resulting from acts of violence	82	65	90	70	70	16
Injuries resulting from safety-related incidents	144	101	130	93	111	47
Abduction	17	6	21	7	8	5
Robbery	314	530	511	375	402	208
Residence break-in and burglary of residence	345	467	452	421	406	159
Aggravated assault	35	104	81	44	47	25
Sexual assault	4	8	12	17	28	3
Intimidation and harassment	108	295	405	231	316	204
Arrest and detention	138	128	69	102	63	42
Total	**1 215**	**1 734**	**1 810**	**1 381**	**1 473**	**722**

Annex II

Attacks on United Nations premises and official vehicles

Category of security incidents	*2015*	*2016*	*2017*	*2018 (first six months)*
Attacks on United Nations premises	35	56	23	7
Attacks on United Nations vehicles	155	146	51	24
Intrusion into United Nations premises	109	90	150	55
Total	**299**	**292**	**224**	**86**

Annex III

United Nations civilian personnel affected by security incidents in 2017

Category of security incident	*Number of personnel affected*	*Internationally recruited*	*Locally recruited*	*Male*	*Female*	*Number of countries*	*Circumstances of security incidents*
Fatalities resulting from acts of violence	9	3	6	7	2	6	Armed conflict (2); terrorism (1); crime (6)
Fatalities resulting from safety-related incidents	13	1	12	12	1	11	Road traffic accident (12); other safety-related incident (1)
Injuries resulting from acts of violence	70	17	53	51	19	17	Armed conflict (3); terrorism (3); crime (56); civil unrest (8)
Injuries resulting from safety-related incidents	111	38	73	87	24	69	Road traffic accident (103); other safety-related incident (8)
Abduction[a]	8	–	8	8	–	5	All United Nations personnel were released
Robbery[b]	402	174	228	201	201	58	
Residence break-in[c] and burglary of residence[d]	406	154	252	257	149	71	
Aggravated assault[e]	47	4	43	41	6	19	
Sexual assault	28	15	13	12	16	14	
Intimidation[f] and harassment[g]	316	104	212	170	146	57	
Arrest and detention[h]	63	5	58	61	2	27	29 United Nations personnel still in detention
Total	**1 473**	**515**	**958**	**907**	**566**		

[a] Act of restraint through the use of or the threat of use of force or through fraudulent persuasion, including hostage-taking involving demands as conditions for liberation, executed by non-State actors.

[b] Act or instance of unlawfully taking property through the use of violence or the threat of the use of violence.

[c] Unauthorized and forceful entry with intent to commit a felony or crime aggravated by use of force or physical assault.

[d] Unauthorized and forceful entry with intent to commit a felony or crime.

[e] Unlawful act that places personnel, without consent, in fear of immediate bodily harm or battery.

[f] Act of making timid or fearful or of deterring by threats.

[g] Act of systematic or continued, unwanted and annoying actions that serve no legitimate purpose, causing substantial emotional distress.

[h] Acts executed by State actors.

Annex IV

Security incidents affecting personnel of non-governmental organizations, as reported to the Department of Safety and Security

Category of security incident	*Number of personnel affected*			
	1 January 2015–30 June 2016	*1 January 2016–30 June 2017*	*1 January 2017–31 December 2017*	*1 January 2018–30 June 2018*
Personnel who lost their lives as a result of acts of violence	41	51	42	18
Personnel injured as a result of acts of violence	82	77	62	34
Abducted personnel	47	145	84	29
Armed attacks on premises	23	17	11	4
Intrusion into premises	218	128	68	21
Armed attacks on vehicles	230	251	114	43
Total	**641**	**669**	**381**	**149**

Annex V

Security incidents affecting area personnel of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

	Number of area personnel affected		
Category of security incident	*2016*	*2017*	*Mid-2018*
Fatalities resulting from acts of violence	4	0	0
Fatalities resulting from safety-related incidents	0	0	0
Injuries resulting from acts of violence	8	5	2
Injuries resulting from safety-related incidents	2	3	1
Abduction	0	0	0
Robbery	11	10	5
Residence break-in	0	0	0
Aggravated assault	35	56	21
Sexual assault	2	0	0
Burglary of residence	0	0	0
Intimidation	75	102	60
Harassment	2	7	3
Arrest and detention	26	21	15
Missing personnel	1	0	1
Theft	5	3	1
Arson	0	1	0
Fire	3	0	0
Armed conflict	8	13	8
Explosive remnants of war	0	1	2
Vandalism	4	2	0
Road traffic accidents	6	2	0
Intrusion into United Nations premises	1	0	0
Others	12	13	3
Total	**205**	**239**	**122**